THE

Definitive Treaty

OF

PEACE and FRIENDSHIP,

BETWEEN

His *Britannick* Majesty, and the *United States* of *America*.

Signed at *Paris*, the 3d of *September*, 1783.

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The Definitive Treaty of PEACE and FRIENDSHIP between His *Britannick* Majeſty, and the *United States* of *America*. Signed at *Paris*, the 3d of *September*, 1783.

In the Name of the Moſt Holy and Undivided Trinity.

IT having pleaſed the Divine Providence to diſpoſe the Hearts of the Moſt Serene and Moſt Potent Prince, *George* the Third, by the Grace of God, King of *Great Britain*, *France* and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, Duke of *Brunſwick* and *Lunenburgh*, Arch-Treaſurer and Prince Elector of the Holy *Roman* Empire, *&c.* and of the *United States* of *America*, to forget all paſt Miſunderſtandings and Differences that have unhappily interrupted the good Correſpondence and Friendſhip which they mutually wiſh to reſtore; and to eſtabliſh ſuch a beneficial and ſatisfactory Intercourſe between the Two Countries, upon the Ground of reciprocal Advantages and mutual Convenience, as may promote and ſecure to both perpetual Peace and Harmony; and having for this deſirable End already laid the Foundation of Peace and Reconciliation, by the Proviſional Articles ſigned at *Paris*, on the 30th of *November*, 1782, by the Commiſſioners empowered on each Part; which Articles were agreed to be inſerted in, and to conſtitute, the Treaty of Peace, propoſed to be concluded between the Crown of *Great Britain* and the ſaid *United States*, but which Treaty was not to be concluded until Terms of Peace ſhould be agreed upon between *Great Britain* and *France*,

France, and His *Britannick* Majeſty ſhould be ready to conclude ſuch Treaty accordingly; and the Treaty between *Great Britain* and *France* having ſince been concluded, His *Britannick* Majeſty and the *United States* of *America*, in order to carry into full Effect the Proviſional Articles above-mentioned, according to the Tenor thereof, have conſtituted and appointed, that is to ſay, His *Britannick* Majeſty, on His Part, *David Hartley*, Eſq; Member of the Parliament of *Great Britain*; and the ſaid *United States*, on their Part, *John Adams*, Eſq; late a Commiſſioner of the *United States* of *America* at the Court of *Verſailles*, late Delegate in Congreſs from the State of *Maſſachuſets*, and Chief Juſtice of the ſaid State, and Miniſter Plenipotentiary of the ſaid *United States* to their High Mightineſſes the States General of the *United Netherlands*; *Benjamin Franklin*, Eſq; late Delegate in Congreſs from the State of *Pennſylvania*, Preſident of the Convention of the ſaid State, and Miniſter Plenipotentiary from the *United States* of *America* at the Court of *Verſailles*; *John Jay*, Eſq; late Preſident of Congreſs, and Chief Juſtice of the State of *New-York*, and Miniſter Plenipotentiary from the ſaid *United States* at the Court of *Madrid*; to be the Plenipotentiaries for the concluding and ſigning the preſent Definitive Treaty: Who, after having reciprocally communicated their reſpective Full Powers, have agreed upon and confirmed the following Articles:

Article I.

HIS *Britannick* Majeſty acknowledges the ſaid *United States*, viz. *New Hampſhire*, *Maſſachuſets Bay*, *Rhode Iſland* and *Providence Plantations*, *Connecticut*, *New York*, *New Jerſey*, *Pennſylvania*, *Delaware*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *North Carolina*, *South Carolina*, and *Georgia*, to be Free, Sovereign, and Independent States; that He treats with them as ſuch; and for Himſelf, His Heirs and Succeſſors, relinquiſhes all Claims to the Government, Propriety and Territorial Rights of the ſame, and every Part thereof.

Article II.

And that all Diſputes which might ariſe in future on the Subject of the Boundaries of the ſaid *United States* may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and ſhall be their Boundaries, *viz.* from

From the North-Weſt Angle of *Nova Scotia*, viz. that Angle which is formed by a Line drawn due North, from the Source of *Saint Croix* River to the *Highlands*, along the ſaid *Highlands* which divide thoſe Rivers that empty themſelves into the River *St. Lawrence*, from thoſe which fall into the *Atlantic* Ocean, to the North-Weſternmoſt Head of *Connecticut* River; Thence down along the Middle of that River to the Forty-fifth Degree of North Latitude; From thence by a Line due Weſt on ſaid Latitude until it ſtrikes the River *Iroquois* or *Cataraquy*; Thence along the Middle of ſaid River into Lake *Ontario*; Through the Middle of ſaid Lake, until it ſtrikes the Communication by Water between that Lake and Lake *Erie*; Thence along the Middle of ſaid Communication into Lake *Erie*; Through the Middle of ſaid Lake, until it arrives at the Water-Communication between that Lake and Lake *Huron*; Thence along the Middle of ſaid Water-Communication into the Lake *Huron*; Thence through the Middle of ſaid Lake to the Water-Communication between that Lake and Lake *Superior*; Thence through Lake *Superior*, Northward of the *Iſles Royal* and *Phelipeaux*, to the *Long Lake*; Thence through the Middle of ſaid *Long Lake*, and the Water-Communication between it and the *Lake of the Woods*, to the ſaid *Lake of the Woods*; Thence through the ſaid Lake to the moſt North-Weſtern Point thereof, and from thence on a due Weſt Courſe to the River *Miſſiſſippi*; Thence by a Line to be drawn along the Middle of the ſaid River *Miſſiſſippi*, until it ſhall interſect the Northernmoſt Part of the Thirty-firſt Degree of North Latitude:—South, by a Line to be drawn due Eaſt from the Determination of the Line laſt-mentioned, in the Latitude of Thirty-one Degrees North of the Equator, to the Middle of the River *Apalachicola* or *Catahouche*; Thence along the Middle thereof to its Junction with the *Flint* River; Thence ſtrait to the Head of *St. Mary's* River, and thence down along the Middle of *St. Mary's* River to the *Atlantic* Ocean:—Eaſt, by a Line to be drawn along the Middle of the River *St. Croix*, from its Mouth in the Bay of *Fundy* to its Source; And from its Source directly North to the aforeſaid *Highlands*, which divide the Rivers that fall into the *Atlantic* Ocean from thoſe which fall into the River *St Lawrence:* Comprehending all Iſlands within Twenty Leagues of any Part of the Shores of the *United States*, and lying between Lines to be drawn due Eaſt from the Points where the aforeſaid Boundaries between *Nova Scotia* on the one Part,

and *East Florida* on the other, ſhall reſpectively touch the Bay of *Fundy*, and the *Atlantic* Ocean; excepting ſuch Iſlands as now are, or heretofore have been, within the Limits of the ſaid Province of *Nova Scotia*.

Article III.

It is agreed, That the People of the *United States* ſhall continue to enjoy unmoleſted the Right to take Fiſh of every Kind on the Grand Bank and on all the other Banks of *Newfoundland*: Alſo in the Gulph of *St. Lawrence*, and at all other Places in the Sea, where the Inhabitants of both Countries uſed at any Time heretofore to fiſh. And alſo that the Inhabitants of the *United States* ſhall have Liberty to take Fiſh of every Kind on ſuch Part of the Coaſt of *Newfoundland*, as *Britiſh* Fiſhermen ſhall uſe, (but not to dry or cure the ſame on that Iſland) and alſo on the Coaſts, Bays and Creeks of all other of His *Britannick* Majeſty's Dominions in *America*; and that the *American* Fiſhermen ſhall have Liberty to dry and cure Fiſh in any of the unſettled Bays, Harbours and Creeks of *Nova Scotia*, *Magdalen Iſlands*, and *Labrador*, ſo long as the ſame ſhall remain unſettled; but ſo ſoon as the ſame, or either of them, ſhall be ſettled, it ſhall not be lawful for the ſaid Fiſhermen to dry or cure Fiſh at ſuch Settlement, without a previous Agreement for that Purpoſe with the Inhabitants, Proprietors or Poſſeſſors of the Ground.

Article IV.

It is agreed, That Creditors on either Side ſhall meet with no lawful Impediment to the Recovery of the full Value in Sterling Money of all *bonâ fide* Debts heretofore contracted.

Article V.

It is agreed, That the Congreſs ſhall earneſtly recommend it to the Legiſlatures of the reſpective States, to provide for the Reſtitution of all Eſtates, Rights and Properties which have been confiſcated, belonging to real *Britiſh* Subjects: And alſo of the Eſtates, Rights and Properties of Perſons reſident in Diſtricts in the Poſſeſſion of His Majeſty's Arms, and who have not borne Arms

Arms againſt the ſaid *United States*: And that Perſons of any other Deſcription ſhall have free Liberty to go to any Part or Parts of any of the Thirteen *United States*, and therein to remain Twelve Months unmoleſted in their Endeavours to obtain the Reſtitution of ſuch of their Eſtates, Rights and Properties as may have been confiſcated: And that Congreſs ſhall alſo earneſtly recommend to the ſeveral States, a Reconſideration and Reviſion of all Acts or Laws regarding the Premiſes, ſo as to render the ſaid Laws or Acts perfectly conſiſtent, not only with Juſtice and Equity, but with that Spirit of Conciliation, which, on the Return of the Bleſſings of Peace, ſhould univerſally prevail. And that Congreſs ſhall alſo earneſtly recommend to the ſeveral States, that the Eſtates, Rights and Properties of ſuch laſt-mentioned Perſons ſhall be reſtored to them, they refunding to any Perſons who may be now in Poſſeſſion the *bonâ fide* Price (where any has been given) which ſuch Perſons may have paid on purchaſing any of the ſaid Lands, Rights or Properties ſince the Confiſcation.

And it is agreed, That all Perſons who have any Intereſt in confiſcated Lands, either by Debts, Marriage Settlements, or otherwiſe, ſhall meet with no lawful Impediment in the Proſecution of their juſt Rights.

Article VI.

That there ſhall be no future Confiſcations made, nor any Proſecutions commenced againſt any Perſon or Perſons, for or by Reaſon of the Part which he or they may have taken in the preſent War; and that no Perſon ſhall on that Account ſuffer any future Loſs or Damage either in his Perſon, Liberty or Property; and that thoſe who may be in Confinement on ſuch Charges at the Time of the Ratification of the Treaty in *America*, ſhall be immediately ſet at Liberty, and the Proſecutions ſo commenced be diſcontinued.

Article VII.

There ſhall be a firm and perpetual Peace between His *Britannick* Majeſty and the ſaid *States*, and between the Subjects of the one and the Citizens of the other, wherefore all Hoſtilities both by Sea and Land ſhall from henceforth ceaſe: All Priſoners on both Sides ſhall be ſet at Liberty, and His *Britannick* Majeſty ſhall with all convenient Speed, and without cauſing any Deſtruction, or carrying away

away any Negroes, or other Property of the *American* Inhabitants, withdraw all His Armies, Garriſons and Fleets from the ſaid *United States*, and from every Port, Place and Harbour within the ſame; leaving in all Fortifications the *American* Artillery that may be therein: And ſhall alſo order and cauſe all Archives, Records, Deeds and Papers belonging to any of the ſaid *States*, or their Citizens, which in the Courſe of the War may have fallen into the Hands of His Officers, to be forthwith reſtored and delivered to the proper States and Perſons to whom they belong.

Article VIII.

The Navigation of the River *Miſſiſſippi*, from its Source to the Ocean, ſhall for ever remain free and open to the Subjects of *Great Britain*, and the Citizens of the *United States*.

Article IX.

In Caſe it ſhould ſo happen that any Place or Territory belonging to *Great Britain*, or to the *United States*, ſhould have been conquered by the Arms of either, from the other, before the Arrival of the ſaid Proviſional Articles in *America*, it is agreed that the ſame ſhall be reſtored without Difficulty, and without requiring any Compenſation.

Article X.

The ſolemn Ratifications of the preſent Treaty, expedited in good and due Form, ſhall be exchanged between the Contracting Parties in the Space of Six Months, or ſooner, if poſſible, to be computed from the Day of the Signature of the preſent Treaty.

In Witneſs whereof, We, the Underſigned, their Miniſters Plenipotentiary, have in their Name, and in Virtue of our Full Powers, ſigned with our Hands the preſent Definitive Treaty, and cauſed the Seals of our Arms to be affixed thereto.

Done at *Paris*, this Third Day of *September*, in the Year of our Lord, One thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-three.

(L. S.) D. HARTLEY.

(L. S.) JOHN ADAMS.
(L. S.) B. FRANKLIN.
(L. S.) JOHN JAY.

His

His Britannick *Majeſty's Full Power.*

GEORGE R.

GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of God, King of *Great Britain*, *France* and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, Duke of *Brunſwick* and *Lunenburgh*, Arch-Treaſurer and Prince Elector of the Holy *Roman* Empire, &c. To all to whom theſe Preſents ſhall come, Greeting: Whereas for the perfecting and eſtabliſhing the Peace, Friendſhip and good Underſtanding, ſo happily commenced by the Proviſional Articles, ſigned at *Paris* the Thirtieth Day of *November* laſt, by the Commiſſioners of Us and Our Good Friends the *United States* of *America*, viz. *New Hampſhire*, *Maſſachuſets Bay*, *Rhode Iſland*, *Connecticut*, *New York*, *New Jerſey*, *Pennſylvania*, the Three Lower Counties on *Delaware*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *North Carolina*, *South Carolina*, and *Georgia*, in *North America*; and for opening, promoting, and rendering perpetual, the mutual Intercourſe of Trade and Commerce between Our Kingdoms and the Dominions of the ſaid *United States*, We have thought proper to inveſt ſome fit Perſon with Full Powers, on Our Part, to meet and confer with the Miniſters of the ſaid *United States*, now reſiding at *Paris*, duly authorized for the accompliſhing of ſuch laudable and ſalutary Purpoſes; Now know ye, that We, repoſing ſpecial Truſt and Confidence in the Wiſdom, Loyalty, Diligence and Circumſpection of Our truſty and well-beloved *David Hartley*, Eſquire, (on whom We have therefore conferred the Rank of our Miniſter Plenipotentiary) have nominated, conſtituted and appointed, and by theſe Preſents do nominate, conſtitute and appoint him Our true, certain, and undoubted Commiſſioner, Procurator, and Plenipotentiary; giving and granting to him all and all Manner of Faculty, Power and Authority, together with general as well as ſpecial Order (ſo as the general do not derogate from the ſpecial, nor on the contrary) for Us, and in Our Name, to meet, confer, treat, and conclude with the Miniſter or Miniſters furniſhed with ſufficient Powers, on the Part of Our ſaid Good Friends the *United States* of *America*, of and con-

cerning all ſuch Matters and Things as may be requiſite and neceſſary for accompliſhing and completing the ſeveral Ends and Purpoſes herein before mentioned; and alſo for Us, and in Our Name, to ſign ſuch Treaty or Treaties, Convention or Conventions, or other Inſtruments whatſoever, as may be agreed upon inthe Premiſes, and mutually to deliver and receive the ſame in Exchange; and to do and perform all ſuch other Acts, Matters and Things, as may be any-ways proper and conducive to the Purpoſes above mentioned, in as full and ample Form and Manner, and with the like Validity and Effect, as We Ourſelf, if We were preſent, could do and perform the ſame: Engaging and promiſing, on Our Royal Word, that We will accept, ratify and confirm, in the moſt effectual Manner, all ſuch Acts, Matters and Things, as ſhall be ſo tranſacted and concluded by Our aforeſaid Commiſſioner, Procurator and Plenipotentiary; and that We will never ſuffer any Perſon to violate the ſame, in the Whole or in Part, or to act contrary thereto. In Teſtimony and Confirmation of all which, We have cauſed Our Great Seal of *Great Britain* to be affixed to theſe Preſents, ſigned with Our Royal Hand. Given at Our Palace at *St. James's*, the Fourteenth Day of *May*, in the Year of our Lord, One thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-three, and in the Twenty-third Year of Our Reign.

Full Power of the United States *of* America.

THE *United States* of *America*, in Congreſs aſſembled, To all to whom theſe Preſents ſhall come, ſend Greeting: Whereas theſe *United States*, from a ſincere Deſire of putting an End to the Hoſtilities between His Moſt *Chriſtian* Majeſty and theſe *United States* on the one Part, and His *Britannick* Majeſty on the other, and of terminating the ſame by a Peace, founded on ſuch ſolid and equitable Principles as reaſonably

to

to promiſe a Permanency of the Bleſſings of Tranquility, did heretofore appoint the Honourable *John Adams*, late a Commiſſioner of the *United States* of *America* at the Court of *Verſailles*, late Delegate in Congreſs from the State of *Maſſachuſets*, and Chief Juſtice of the ſaid State, their Miniſter Plenipotentiary, with Full Powers, general and ſpecial, to act in that Quality, to confer, treat, agree, and conclude with the Ambaſſadors or Plenipotentiaries of His Moſt *Chriſtian* Majeſty, and of His *Britannick* Majeſty, and thoſe of any other Princes or States whom it might concern, relating to the Reeſtabliſhment of Peace and Friendſhip: And whereas the Flames of War have ſince that Time been extended, and other Nations and States are involved therein: Now know ye, that We ſtill continuing earneſtly deſirous, as far as depends upon Us, to put a Stop to the Effuſion of Blood, and to convince the Powers of *Europe*, that We wiſh for nothing more ardently, than to terminate the War by a ſafe and honourable Peace, have thought proper to renew the Powers formerly given to the ſaid *John Adams*, and to join Four other Perſons in Commiſſion with him; and having full Confidence in the Integrity, Prudence and Ability of the Honourable *Benjamin Franklin*, our Miniſter Plenipotentiary at the Court of *Verſailles*, and the Honourable *John Jay*, late Preſident of Congreſs, and Chief Juſtice of the State of *New York*, and our Miniſter Plenipotentiary at the Court of *Madrid*; and the Honourable *Henry Laurens*, formerly Preſident of Congreſs, and commiſſionated and ſent as our Agent to the United Provinces of the Low Countries; and the Honourable *Thomas Jefferſon*, Governor of the Commonwealth of *Virginia*; have nominated, conſtituted, and appointed, and by theſe Preſents do nominate, conſtitute and appoint, the ſaid *Benjamin Franklin*, *John Jay*, *Henry Laurens* and *Thomas Jefferſon*, in Addition to the ſaid *John Adams*, giving and granting to them the ſaid *John Adams*, *Benjamin Franklin*, *John Jay*, *Henry Laurens*, and *Thomas Jefferſon*, or the Majority of them, or of ſuch of them as may aſſemble; or, in Caſe of the Death, Abſence, Indiſpoſition, or other Impediment of the others, to any one them, Full Power and Authority, general and ſpecial, conjunctly and ſeparately, and general and ſpecial Command, to repair to ſuch Place as may be fixed upon for opening Negociations for Peace; and there for us, and in our Name,

Name, to confer, treat, agree, and conclude with the Ambaſſadors, Commiſſioners and Plenipotentiaries of the Princes and States whom it may concern, veſted with equal Powers, relating to the Eſtabliſhment of Peace; and whatſoever ſhall be agreed and concluded, for us and in our Name, to ſign, and thereupon make a Treaty or Treaties; and to tranſact every Thing that may be neceſſary for completing, ſecuring and ſtrengthening the great Work of Pacification, in as ample Form, and with the ſame Effect, as if we were perſonally preſent, and acted therein; hereby promiſing, in good Faith, that we will accept, ratify, fulfil, and execute whatever ſhall be agreed, concluded, and ſigned by our ſaid Miniſters Plenipotentiary, or a Majority of them, or of ſuch of them as may aſſemble; or, in Caſe of the Death, Abſence, Indiſpoſition, or other Impediment of the others, by any one of them; and that we will never act, nor ſuffer any Perſon to act, contrary to the ſame, in Whole, or in any Part. In Witneſs whereof we have cauſed theſe Preſents to be ſigned by our Preſident, and ſealed with his Seal.

Done at *Philadelphia*, the Fifteenth Day of *June*, in the Year of Lord, One thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-one, and in the Fifth Year of our Independence, by the *United States* in Congreſs aſſembled.

(Signed) SAM. HUNTINGTON, *Preſident*.

Atteſt

(Signed)

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*.

FINIS.